

VOLUME XXXI

TOSS-UP

Whether the Next News From
Ladysmith Will Be

OF WHITE'S CAPITULATION

Or of the Utter Rout of
Joubert's Forces.

BOERS MUST MOVE QUICK

They are at a Point Where They Can
No More Let Go Than White
Can Get Away.

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London, Nov. 11.—As each day and each week of the war draws to a close without decisive action at Ladysmith, the probability that the Boers will risk an assault upon that garrison becomes, it is said, more and more imminent. In fact, it is claimed that the campaign seems to have reached a stage where it is absolutely necessary for the Boers to deliver a telling stroke. Unless they decide to do this, their only alternative is to retire, within their own lines and strengthen themselves against the impending onslaught by superior numbers. That the latter course will be followed without first making a determined attempt to oust or capture General White, seems beyond all reason, for the methodical isolation of General White's force indicates that the campaign has been carefully planned and the main objective definitely fixed. Even if the Boers have not already discovered that they have not underrated General White's abilities under resistance, it is thought surely likely that they will not give their expected prey without a desperate struggle. Not only have they tasted of the dangerous delights of victory, and revealed, in anticipation, in still further conquest over the main unit opposing them, which alone would have great moral effect in enervating them to risk much against Ladysmith, but now it is too late for them to change the main objective, which is to capture the Boers, they could scarcely transfer the body of their forces, which are at present concentrated about Ladysmith, to the other vulnerable British point without running the risk of encountering superior numbers, which are already pouring northward. Moreover, the weakening of the Boer force at Ladysmith would give General White a splendid opportunity of attacking and, even against overwhelming odds, he has shown no hesitation in accepting every opening for assuming the offensive.

The Boers must know, just as well as the British military authorities, that twenty-three transports will arrive in South Africa before November 15. They must also realize that their time is short, for in the present emergency, it is believed, General Buller will not wait to organize an army corps, but will content himself with rushing to the front every regiment he can dispose of. Hence, news telling of action of General Joubert's complete rout or General White's capitulation, it is claimed, can be expected daily. It is thought more than likely that the engagement understood to be imminent will prove to be the most serious encounter of the war. If victory lies with General Joubert, it will be a month or so before General Buller can dispose with him the possession of Natal, for while it is still perfectly feasible to send reinforcements to General White, it would, apparently, be absolutely impossible to assume the offensive were General White no longer a military factor. The destruction of the railway bridge over the River Tugela would greatly retard the progress even of minor reinforcements, while it would march of a British force of any proportions.

However, there is no reason to believe Ladysmith has not a good chance to withstand most determined Boer attacks. General Buller continues to send transports to Durban and disembark troops there, General White will only have to wait for a fortnight before he is reinforced or, at any rate, before the reinforcements create a diversion of the Boer forces. But it is impossible to predict with any degree of exactness when the troops will disembark on account of the difficulties of transport, several of which have developed a remarkable penchant for breaking down, or discovering, after leaving port, that their coal boilers or other essentials were worthless.

Among the military critics, what is most dreaded is the possibility that General White may succumb to the pettiness of personal limitations, which, in the history of the world, has so often influenced the action of the greatest generals. On this score, the Naval and Military Record says: "It looks as though General White will not be content to await the arrival of reinforcements and the supremacy of General Buller. But the spirited soldier who held a high command over the whole Indian army might be pardoned for being slightly influenced by private ambitions."

Nearly all the authorities, while withholding definite criticism until fuller information is obtainable, fail to understand why General White did not fall back south of Tugela, thus drawing the Boers after him into the arms of General Buller. It is charitably supposed that the government of Natal erred in influence over General White and is in no little degree responsible for his fall. Yet from a strategic point of view, the fall of Ladysmith is a great disaster. It is admitted that no general has been commiserated in history merely because he allowed his actions to be hampered by a civil government to which he was not directly responsible. Naturally, there is a great

division of opinion on these points. One of the most humane contributions to the controversy, trenchant in its simplicity, comes from Admiral Dowell, who writes: "I am a sailor and do not pretend to give an opinion on the merits of the case, though my own feeling is that General White has done a difficult duty well. Of one thing, apparently, there can be no doubt, namely, that Sir George White has proved himself to be a gallant and chivalrous gentleman." This bluff tribute, perhaps better than any export criticism, the feeling of the nation, the generally accepted feeling is that Ladysmith is not in so great peril as last week, which emanates entirely from the partially renewed confidence in General White and the lack of bad news. This applies equally to Mafeking, Kimberley and other oints. The popular and expert expression now is that these places and Ladysmith will not fall into the hands of the Boers, though, some people add, it is hard to see any grounds for making a definite prognostication to that effect, for, to the impartial observer, it seems to be a toss-up.

The Duke of Newcastle's offer to bear the cost of fitting out a hospital ship, to be known as the Princess of Wales, has been accepted by the Red Cross society. A private donor has undertaken to provide another Red Cross ship with a complete outfit of medical stores. The raising of the fund for the American hospital ship, though bidding fair to be successful, has been marked by some division of feeling in the American colony. It has been learned by a report of the Associated Press that the American colony have declined to contribute, for while indorsing the object, they said they believed the method of raising the subscription had resulted in much obnoxious social business and self-advertising. An American official in London said to a representative of the Associated Press: "It is an excellent idea, but many of these American women who have so much to give to England were among those who last year even sympathized with 'poor Spain,' which, just because that feeling was fashionable among a certain London set, they had to do it. I think it is probable that they would have much more point if they got up a subscription for a Philippine hospital ship, where our own poor fellows are settling down."

Commenting upon the United States election, which are generally taken to indicate a triumph of imperialism, the Saturday Review says: "Every one is so anxious about the election in the United States that they have become a fine art. Scarcely, however, have we had the good fortune to discover a more audacious and more audacious than the law of 1893 than is revealed by the circular issued by the Ohio Republican state executive committee, addressed to federal servants supposed to be Republicans, and which states that 'any Republican who provides of the law, the committee in charge of the financial branch of the campaign will not only not be connected with the federal service, and subscriptions may therefore be safely made to the campaign, but the committee will well be proud of his victory.'"

Barkeley West, Monday, Nov. 11.—A dispatch received from Kimberley says: "The Boers it was added, surrounded Kimberley in great force, with heavy artillery."

London, Nov. 11.—The day has brought forth no great news and little change has taken place either in Natal or on the north and northern frontiers of Cape Colony. The chief fact is the opening of the Kimberley railway on Tuesday by Free State artillery, which proved, according to an official statement, utterly ineffective. The Boer investment of the town, however, is said to be tight.

Skirmishing between the Kimberley mounted troops and the Boers early in the week resulted in severe Boer losses, the British force losing one killed and one wounded. Advice from Orange river confirm the report of the Free State troops' advance upon the north of Cape Colony, but owing to the retirement of the British force from the borderland, no serious collision has yet occurred. The coming week, however, is certain to see important developments in this district.

Dispatches from Mafeking show that Colonel Buller-Powell's little force is still not merely holding its own, but is daily fulfilling more or less severe punishment upon the Boers, whose artillery has apparently proved valueless. Nothing has filtered through today from Ladysmith, which everybody expects to be the theatre of thrilling events during the coming weeks. Transports carrying 2,000 British troops are already enroute to Durban, having passed Cape Town, and the Boers must have a decisive blow at Ladysmith, or soon or never.

BORDER BOERS INACTIVE. Cape Town, Wednesday, Nov. 8.—The movements of the Boers north of the Orange appear to be half-hearted. Alluvial North is entirely at their mercy. It is probable that they will shortly occupy Beaufort, one of the points of railway entrance into the Free State. They have occupied Beaufort, where the Boers have been active. Most of the refugees from Alluvial North have gone to Jamestown, east of the railway, near the mountains. There are indications that the Boers are making a determined bid for the active support of the colonial Dutch, but they are not likely to succeed in obtaining it, owing to the presence of General Buller. It is stated that a Boer command, 6,000 strong, is at Donkerspoort, but the strength of this body is palpably exaggerated. It is reported that the commandos show no activity, spending most of the day in sleep and doing little or no drilling. Many recruits are offering to enlist in the Boer colonial force, proving that the Boers are anxious to participate actively in the campaign.

Cape Town, Nov. 7.—It is reported that a Boer force from Smithfield has crossed the frontier at Mafeking. It is estimated to be 4,000 strong, with field guns. The latest advice is that the Boers had not entered Alluvial North yesterday evening, but the Beaufort force of Boers was momentarily expected. It is said the Boers have already captured some police and others on the outskirts of the place and that Alluvial North is deserted and defenceless. The railway has been cut at Vreburg, two stations south of Alluvial North. Another Boer force is reported to have marched past Beaufort, towards the mountains. The Transvaal contingent, which was expected to join the Free States between Springfontein and Beaufort, is reported to be delayed by want of supplies.

MAFEEKING REFUSES THE BOERS. Cape Town, Wednesday, Nov. 8.—News received from Mafeking, undated, says that on Monday the Boers besieged the town. One Boer gun was knocked out of action and the Boers retired but were repulsed. Tuesday they shelled the Cape Town, with little damage. Wednesday there was a general attack under the cover of the artillery, but it was repulsed by the Maxim and Hotchkiss guns. The Boer loss was fifty killed. The British loss was slight. Thursday shelling by the Boers continued.

Continued on Second Page.

STUDY

Of Election Returns by Bryan
Is Proof to Him

OF A DEMOCRATIC VICTORY

Goebelites' Claim Reduces to
a Beggary 155 Plurality.

Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 11.—W. J. Bryan this evening gave to the press an extended statement summing up the results of elections in different states. In Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, where the Democrats reaffirmed the Chicago platform, he said that they have made gains while in New York and New Jersey the Republicans vote shows a falling off. Maryland, he declares, is now safely Democratic. On the Kentucky election he says: "The result in Kentucky does not give any encouragement to the Republicans. The latest returns show that the contest between Mr. Goebel and Mr. Taylor is very close. The Democrats claim the election of Goebel and the entire state ticket by a plurality of 155. The Republicans claim a plurality of 155. The result in Kentucky does not give any encouragement to the Republicans. The latest returns show that the contest between Mr. Goebel and Mr. Taylor is very close. The Democrats claim the election of Goebel and the entire state ticket by a plurality of 155. 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